

HOW TO TRAIN A DOG.

If You Want an Educated Pet Follow These Directions.

Queen Victoria has about 55 pet dogs, and, of course, being royal canines, they live in a royal way; they have a handsomely carpeted dining-room, ornamented with portraits of their ancestors, and seem very proud of them. Whether a royal dog needs special training I do not know; but if you possess one of the regular sort that is content to live in a kennel in the yard and eat from the same plate as the cat at the kitchen door, or if he is a pet dog and allowed to have his quarters in the house, these directions will be useful to you in giving him an education.

Dog trainers tell us that, with the exception of the elephant and the monkey, dogs are the most intelligent and teachable of animals.

The first step in training your dog is to attach him to your person, to make him very fond of you, so that the slightest cross word you may speak will be punishment enough, without resorting to a stick. In training a dog it is never necessary to strike him; he is more affected by a scolding than is a child, and consequently does not need a slipper. You should never scold a dog "for fun" to see how "sorry" he will look; reserve your scolding as a punishment, or you will lose all authority over him. Never be afraid of encouraging him; let him know when he has done right, and he will be anxious to do it again.

To teach him to jump, place a stick in a doorway, where he cannot crawl around it; at first place it very low, so that he can walk over it, and when he understands you can raise it gradually. If he doesn't understand at first, jump the stick yourself to show him, and he will follow your lead.

"Begging" is easy, as it is natural for a dog to want food; but if he snaps at it too soon, cuff his nose and he will soon learn the proper way. By practice he will get his balance on his hind legs, and be even taught to walk on them by following the morsel about.

When he has mastered this he can be taught to "sit up." When standing on his hind legs you must take one paw in each of your hands and gently press him into a sitting posture, saying: "Steady! sit up!" The words: "Stand up!" "Walk!" "Sit up!" should be constantly repeated so that the commands will become familiar with the actions.

To "shake hands" when he is "sitting" give him a slight cuff under the right side of the nose; this will make him lose his balance so that he will raise his right paw, which you must shake, saying: "Shake hands!" When he becomes familiar with the words in connection with his actions, he will readily obey alone. Practice is the principal thing.

He may be taught to ring a bell by tying a piece of meat on the handle and telling him to "ring the bell" as he shakes it in endeavoring to get the meat off; this being connected with something to eat will always be a pleasant task when he is learning, but he will soon do it for the fun of it and the love of you.

To make him walk on his forelegs, ask him to jump a stick, and as he jumps catch his hind legs with the stick so as to hold them up from the ground, saying "hip-hip!" By struggling to keep his balance he will learn to walk.

To make him "go lame" keep tapping one leg till he holds it up, saying at the same time, "lame, lame."

In order to make him creep you must hold him to the floor with your hand pressed gently on his head, and walk slowly backward, making him follow you, saying "creep, creep!" By holding him in this way and saying, "down, down!" you prepare him for learning to "die." From the "down" position push him over on his side, and if he does not straighten his limbs, do it for him, telling him he is "dead, dead." By the time he has learned all of these tricks he will be quite an accomplished dog, and ready for harder tasks which will exercise his intelligence to a greater extent.—Home Queen.

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